

# **Sawtooth Mountains B**

*CA-060-024B*

## SAWTOOTH MOUNTAINS B WILDERNESS STUDY AREA (WSA)

(CA-060-024B)

### 1. THE STUDY AREA --- 25,871 acres

The Sawtooth Mountains B WSA is located in east-central San Diego County, about 38 miles south of Borrego Springs and 95 miles east of San Diego. The study area contains 25,871 acres of public land under the jurisdiction of the BLM and 40 acres of private lands (see Map 1 and Table 1). This WSA borders two smaller BLM WSAs of less than 5,000 acres, Sawtooth Mountains A (CA-060-024A) and Sawtooth Mountains C (CA-060-024C), on the northwest and southeast, respectively.

Beginning at Storm Canyon Road, which separates this WSA from Sawtooth Mountains A, the north boundary runs eastward cross-country until it meets a primitive road that services Potrero Canyon. The boundary then cherrystems this road and a parallel route to the east, finally heading northeast to meet the boundary of public and private land on the east side of Vallecito Valley. The WSA boundary then follows the property line eastward to the edge of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, turning southward to follow the state park boundary, then skirting a section of private property to meet a primitive way, which it follows to Canebrake Canyon. The Canebrake Canyon Road then forms the WSA boundary, separating it from Sawtooth Mountains C WSA. The entire Canebrake Canyon Road is cherrystemmed out of the WSA. The study area boundary then once again follows the state park boundary, until at its southernmost point, it meets other BLM lands which are part of the McCain Valley Resource Conservation Area. The boundary turns north and then west, skirting the Cuyapaipe Indian Reservation. The west WSA boundary adjoins the Cleveland National Forest, heading north and west until it meets the edge of Sawtooth Mountains A WSA, skirting private property in Storm Canyon to once again meet the Storm Canyon Road.

Elevations within the WSA range from 1,400 to 5,600 feet, with the area generally describable as alternating ridges and valleys. These ridges extend like fingers from the Laguna Mountains into the desert, and in doing so create the alluvial valleys known as Vallecito (including Potrero and Storm Canyons), Inner Pasture, and Canebrake Canyon. Ephemeral streams drain these valleys.

The WSA was studied under Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). The WSA is within BLM's Eastern San Diego County Planning Unit, for which a management framework plan (MFP) was completed in 1981. Four suitability recommendations were analyzed in the draft and final Environmental Impact Statements (EISs), on the Wilderness Recommendations for the Eastern San Diego County Planning Unit, completed in 1986: all wilderness, no wilderness, and two partial wilderness options, one recommending 86% of the WSA suitable for wilderness and the other recommending 89% suitable for wilderness.

The 89% partial wilderness recommendation as presented in the 1986 final EIS differs from that analyzed in the draft EIS issued in 1980 and the amendments that were considered in the 1982 amendment review of the California Desert and Eastern San Diego County Plans. Unlike the 1980 draft EIS and the 1982 plan amendments, all cherrystems in the Potrero, Canebrake, and Inner Pasture Canyon areas would be eliminated, and the lands made a part of the wilderness area.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE — 22,875 acres recommended for wilderness  
2,916 acres recommended for nonwilderness

Partial wilderness (89% suitable) is the recommendation for the Sawtooth Mountains B WSA. This recommendation is the 89% wilderness as described in the 1986 final EIS. The 2,916 acres in this WSA recommended for nonwilderness are released for uses other than wilderness. In addition to the Federal acreage recommended for wilderness, BLM recommends that 40 acres of private inholdings and 1,920 acres of adjacent private lands be acquired through exchange or purchase and designated as wilderness. The adjacent private lands are surrounded on three sides by the WSA, and since their wilderness values are equal to those within the study area, their acquisition and addition to the wilderness is logical. With acquisition of these parcels, a total of 24,875 acres are recommended for wilderness. Appendix 1 provides additional information on acquisition of these private lands. This recommendation will be implemented in a manner which will use all practical means to avoid or minimize environmental impacts.

The all wilderness recommendation is environmentally preferable because it would result in the least change to the existing natural environment over the long term. It is not the recommendation for this WSA, however, for the reasons described below.

Pending development of a wilderness management plan, the WSA will be managed in accordance with the 1981 Eastern San Diego County MFP, as amended. Since this is a broad-based, general plan, not all future management actions can be predicted with certainty. Projections have been made to allow analysis of the effects of the recommendation. Although the BLM is not necessarily committed to all of these actions, the following is an outline of reasonably feasible activities which could be expected to occur. Use of the Canebrake and Vallecito Grazing Allotments will continue. Grazing could increase from 738 to 1,100 animal unit months (AUMs), as present grazing use levels are below the identified potential carrying capacity. Bighorn sheep could be reintroduced into the area. Existing apiary sites will be phased out and no more permits issued. The WSA will be closed to recreational off-highway vehicle (OHV) use. The suitability recommendation will preclude any further vehicular use of approximately five miles of primitive routes of travel.

The rationale for the partial wilderness recommendation are that the lands proposed for wilderness (1) contain high-quality wilderness values, (2) encompass an ecological transition zone between the Colorado Desert and the Peninsular Mountain Ranges which is not represented in existing units of the

National Wilderness Preservation System, (3) encompass historical habitat for the peninsular bighorn sheep where reintroduction is feasible, and (4) the extent to which other resource values or uses would be foregone as a result of wilderness designation is slight, since grazing and apiary sites are the only land uses presently occurring, and grazing can continue.

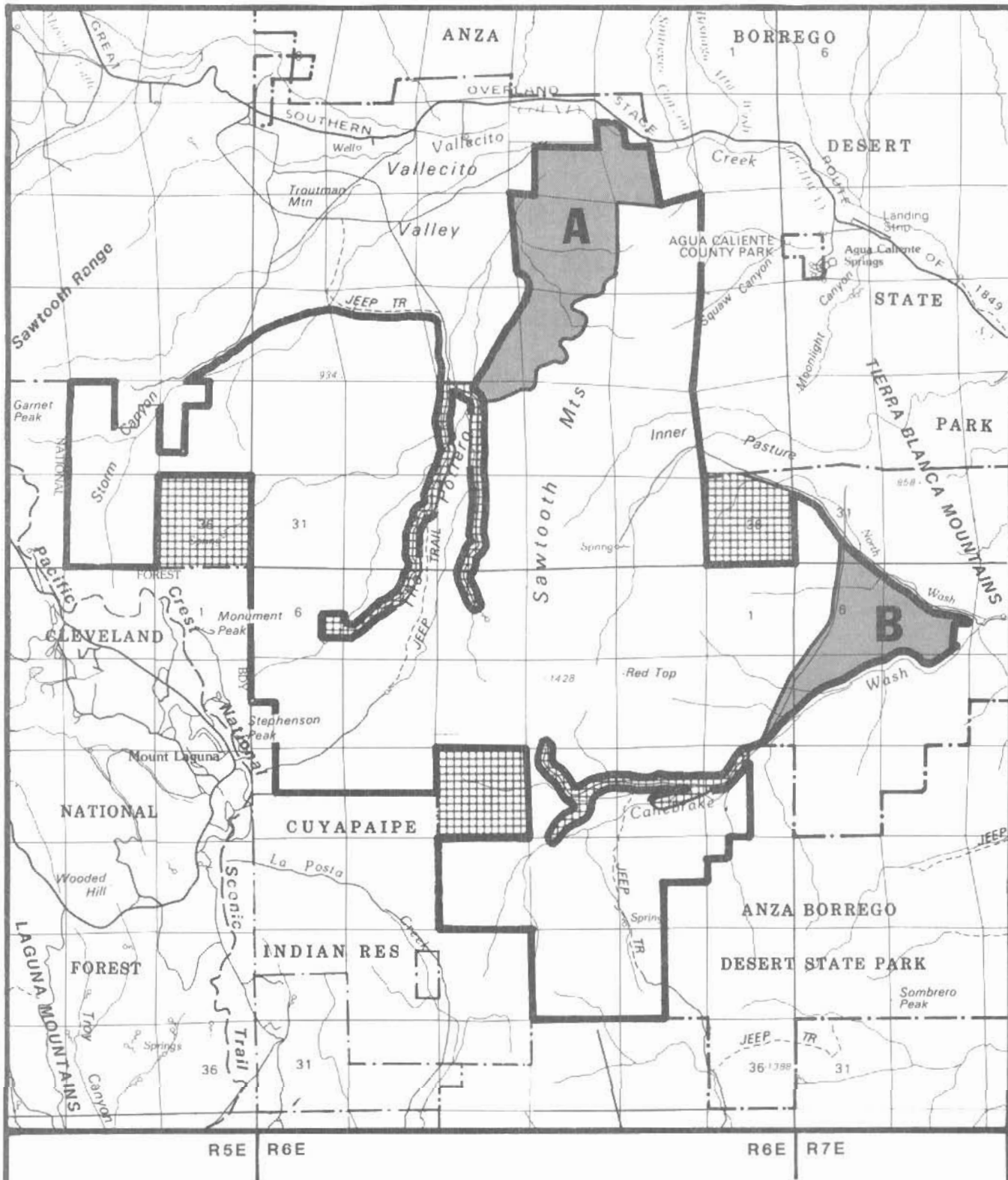
The lands proposed for nonwilderness do not possess wilderness values, and deletion of these lands would improve wilderness manageability by placing the boundary along recognizable topographic features that provide natural barriers to the entry of vehicles and that exclude lands containing human intrusions.

The wilderness values of the recommended wilderness portion of the Sawtooth Mountains B fully meet the criteria specified in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act. Naturalness and opportunities for solitude would be enhanced by wilderness designation and the subsequent permanent exclusion of nonconforming activities such as apiary sites and OHV use. In addition, the area contains a wealth of archeological resources that wilderness designation would help preserve from disturbance.


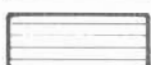

Because of its location in an ecological transition zone, the WSA contains an outstanding variety of vegetation, including many uncommon species of special management concern. This biological diversity makes the WSA valuable for scientific research and education. Wilderness designation will help assure that the WSA's diverse vegetative communities remain in their natural, undisturbed condition, which will also protect the habitat of individual species that are candidates for Federal listing as threatened or endangered.

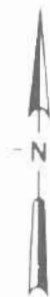
The peninsular bighorn sheep which once inhabited the WSA is a candidate for Federal listing as threatened and endangered. The habitat within the WSA is proposed as a bighorn reintroduction area, and BLM and the California Department of Fish and Game have already made preliminary plans to accomplish the reintroduction. Wilderness designation will help assure that the effort is successful. The exclusion of potential surface disturbing activities such as motorized travel, mechanized fire suppression, and mineral exploration and development will help protect sheep habitat.

The portion of the WSA recommended for nonwilderness comprises two parcels, Parcel A on the northern edge and Parcel B on the eastern edge of the study area, as shown on Map 1. These are areas of limited topographic relief that border private property, and which possess inferior wilderness values when compared to the rest of the study area. Parcel B contains approximately eight miles of primitive ways that have been closed to vehicles, but which nevertheless reduce the area's naturalness. BLM plans to develop a bladed dirt public access road through Parcel A from County Highway S-2. At present, public vehicular access to the recommended wilderness portion of the WSA is effectively cut off by private property.



-  RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS
-  RECOMMENDED FOR NONWILDERNESS
-  LAND OUTSIDE WSA RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS

-  SPLIT ESTATE
-  STATE
-  PRIVATE



**Sawtooth Mountains-B  
Proposal  
MAP-1**

0 1 2 3  
MILES

060-024B  
JUNE, 1988

TABLE 1 - Land Status and Acreage Summary of the Study Area

<u>Within Wilderness Study Area</u>		<u>Acres</u>
BLM	(surface and subsurface)	25,791
Split Estate	(BLM surface only)	0
Inholdings		
State		0
Private		40
Total		<u>25,871</u>
<u>Within the Recommended Wilderness Boundary</u>		<u>Acres</u>
BLM	(within WSA)	22,875
BLM	(outside WSA)	0
Split Estate	(within WSA)	0
Split Estate	(outside WSA)	0
Total BLM Land Recommended for Wilderness		<u>22,875</u>
Inholdings <sup>1</sup>		
State		0
Private		40
<u>Private Land Outside of the WSA boundary</u> <u>Recommended for Acquisition and</u> <u>Designation as Wilderness</u>		1,920
<u>Within the Area Not Recommended for Wilderness</u>		<u>Acres</u>
BLM	(surface and subsurface)	2,916
Split Estate	(BLM surface only)	0
Total BLM Land Not Recommended for Wilderness		<u>2,916</u>



### 3. CRITERIA CONSIDERED IN DEVELOPING THE WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS

#### A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Naturalness: Most of the recommended wilderness portion of the study area is in a natural condition. However, several cherrystemmed roads, a few primitive ways, approximately one and a half miles of livestock fences, and five livestock water developments with associated troughs, a windmill, a water tank, four spring boxes, and above-ground pipelines are present. These intrusions are substantially unnoticeable within the study area as a whole, due to the screening effect of vegetation and topographic relief. Soils and vegetation within the area are essentially undisturbed.

The portions of the WSA recommended for nonwilderness contain more concentrated human intrusions. Sparse vegetation and relatively flat topography do little to screen these intrusions from view. Parcel A contains approximately two miles of livestock fence along its boundary with private land. Parcel B contains eight miles of primitive ways and approximately one-half mile of livestock fence. A private section within Parcel B shows evidence of past development, including an abandoned airstrip.

2. Solitude: The area recommended for wilderness offers ample opportunities for solitude because of its large size, limited access, and the screening effects of vegetation and topographic relief. The portions of the WSA recommended for nonwilderness provide a buffer zone between this area and developed private property.

Opportunities for solitude are more limited on the recommended nonwilderness portions of the study area. Little vegetative or topographic screening is provided here, and the parcels are adjacent to private property. The intrusive sight of farming uses outside the WSA in the Vallecito Valley impairs opportunities for solitude in Parcel A.

This WSA is periodically overflowed by military aircraft as part of the national defense mission taking place in approved military operating areas and flight corridors. The visual intrusions and associated noise create periodic temporary effects on solitude which are deemed necessary and acceptable as a part of the defense preparedness of the nation.

3. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: The recommended wilderness area's large size and rugged topography offer many opportunities for hiking, backpacking, and nature observation and study. The presence of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Wilderness to the east enhances these opportunities. Photographic opportunities abound during the

spring wildflower blooms, and the diverse and often dense vegetation provide opportunities for hunting mule deer, cottontail and jack rabbits, and upland game birds.

The recommended nonwilderness portions of the WSA present fewer opportunities for primitive recreation, because they are relatively flat areas of sparse vegetation, with little to attract the primitive recreationist.

4. Special Features: The WSA is a potential site for the reintroduction of peninsular bighorn sheep to a portion of its former range, and a memorandum of agreement to do so has been signed by the BLM and the California Department of Fish and Game. The sheep is listed as rare by the State, and is under status review by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (US F&WS) for possible listing as threatened or endangered.

The San Diego horned lizard has been found in the WSA on granitic outcrops. It is under status review by US F&WS. The spotted bat, also under Federal status review, is suspected to occur in the WSA, but its presence has not been confirmed. The US F&WS considers the loggerhead shrike sensitive in Region 1. The willow flycatcher is also a US F&WS sensitive species and is a species of special concern to the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). The former occurs year-long in the WSA, while the latter is a summer resident. The prairie falcon, golden eagle, and Cooper's hawk, also species of special concern to CDFG, occur within the WSA.

The area has remarkably diverse vegetation, a factor which also contributes to its scenic quality. For example, in 1983 over 80 species of flowering plants were observed in less than one square mile. More than 200 species of plants are believed to exist within the study area, and this diversity is of special interest to botanists and other scientists. The WSA encompasses an unusual transition zone of vegetation, changing from a dense chaparral community at the higher elevations along the Laguna Mountains, to low desert creosote bush-agave-ocotillo in the Colorado Desert at the lower elevations.

There are many plant species of special concern known to exist within the WSA. The following five are all under status review by the US F&WS for possible listing as threatened or endangered: Astragalus douglasii var. perstrictus, Diplacus aridus, Ferocactus acanthodes var. acanthodes, Lupinus excubitus var. medius, and Opuntia bigelovii var. hoffmanii. In addition, the following six species are listed by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) as rare in California, but more common elsewhere: Ayenia compacta, Geraea viscida, Lyrocarpa coulteri var. palmeri, Mentzelia hirsutissima var. stenophylla, Mirabilis tenuiloba, and Penstemon clevelandii spp. connatus. Finally, Delphinium parishii spp. subglobosum and Proboscidea althaeifolia are listed by CNPS as plants of limited distribution. Other sensitive plant species are



predicted to occur in the WSA based on their known presence nearby, and include four species under status review by US F&WS, one State listed rare species, and six additional species included on one of the CNPS lists.

The cultural resources within the WSA are rich and varied. Over 100 archeological sites have been recorded, and additional undiscovered sites are highly likely. Known sites include temporary camps, seed grinding stations, pottery scatters, rock art, several suspected cremations, and a multitude of earthen ovens or roasting pits. This area was clearly important to aboriginal populations. The combination of mountain fed creeks and diverse desert plant community offered great opportunities for sustenance. Plant foods of importance include agave, desert apricot, mesquite, jojoba, yucca, and various cacti. The archeological properties within the WSA are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Kumeyaay Indians occupied this area in historic times. They have expressed concern over burials elsewhere and by extrapolation, the reported cremations with the WSA would be sensitive. The presence of rock art is also noteworthy and has been linked to shamanistic rituals. These sites are also considered sensitive.

#### B. Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS)

1. Assessing the diversity of natural systems and features as represented by ecosystems: This WSA contains 25,791 acres of the California Chaparral/California Oakwoods ecosystem. The individual ecosystems within the Sawtooth Mountains B WSA are already represented in the NWPS. However, the WSA encompasses an ecological transition zone between the Colorado Desert and the peninsular mountain ranges which is not currently represented in any single area within the NWPS.

Table 2 - Ecosystem Representation

Bailey-Kuchler Classification Domain/Province/PNV	<u>NWPS Areas</u>		<u>Other BLM Studies</u>	
	areas	acres	areas	acres
	<u>NATIONWIDE</u>			
California Chaparral/ California Oakwoods	4	105,301	6	13,935
	<u>CALIFORNIA</u>			
California Chaparral/ California Oakwoods	4	105,301	6	13,935

2. Expanding the opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation within a days driving time (five hours) of major population centers: The WSA is within a five-hour drive of five major population centers. Table 3 summarizes the number and acreage of wilderness areas and other BLM study areas within a five-hour drive of these population centers.

Table 3  
Wilderness Opportunities for Residents  
of Major Population Centers

Population Centers	<u>NWPS areas</u>		<u>Other BLM Studies</u>	
	areas	acres	areas	acres
<u>California</u>				
Anaheim-Santa Ana	25	2,823,534	153	5,703,616
Los Angeles-Long Beach	27	2,876,234	135	4,958,751
Oxnard-Ventura	23	2,195,198	85	2,703,260
Riverside-San Bernardino	22	2,031,054	205	7,658,649
San Diego	15	1,043,680	100	3,378,814

3. Balancing the geographic distribution of wilderness areas: The Sawtooth Mountains B WSA is within 50 air miles of six BLM WSAs recommended for wilderness designation. The closest designated wilderness is adjacent to the WSA in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Less than 50 air miles away are five other wilderness areas: Agua Tibia, Santa Rosa, Pine Creek, and Hauser, administered by the U.S. Forest Service; and Cuyamaca Mountains State Wilderness Area.

#### C. Manageability

The entire WSA is manageable as wilderness. However, there is a difference in ease of manageability between the portion recommended for wilderness and the portion recommended for nonwilderness.

The area's remoteness, lack of vehicle access except on the cherrystemmed routes, rugged topography, and the compatible management of adjacent state park wilderness are all factors that contribute to the manageability of the recommended wilderness portion. Manageability would be further enhanced by acquisition of the identified private parcels, to assure the maintenance of existing high wilderness values on the parcels.

Wilderness values on the recommended nonwilderness portion of the WSA are lower and were so at the time of the wilderness inventory. The fact that Parcels A and B have relatively flat topography, easier vehicular access, and that the two parcels border developed private property, are all factors which contributed to the loss of naturalness and solitude which has already occurred. These same factors would continue to make it difficult to protect or enhance these values under wilderness designation.

Eliminating Parcel A from the wilderness area will generally pull the wilderness boundary back to the bottom of a steep ridge, which will make it readily identifiable in the field with a minimum of signing. Presently, the boundary between Parcel A and the adjacent private property is merely a legal description which is not denoted by any topographic or physical feature, except two miles of livestock fence.

Parcel A is also a logical point at which to develop public vehicular access to the proposed wilderness area. The new wilderness will be of limited value to the public if it remains inaccessible. Presently, access to the edge of the recommended wilderness from County Highway S-2 is blocked by private property protected by locked gates.

#### D. Energy and Mineral Resource Values

1. Summary of Information Known at the Time of the Preliminary Suitability Recommendation: The Sawtooth Mountains B WSA is located within the Vallecito Mountains Geology-Energy-Minerals (G-E-M) Resource Area (GRA), for which BLM prepared a GRA Report in 1980. The south portion of the WSA had known occurrences of manganese and was classified in the GRA Report as having a moderate potential for the occurrence of manganese, a strategic mineral. In the northwestern portion of the WSA, occurrences of copper, lead, silver, and zinc were also classified as having a moderate potential. The western section of the WSA was classified by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in 1979 as prospectively valuable (PV) for geothermal resources; however, under the BLM mineral resource classification system was considered as having a low potential for occurrence in the WSA.
2. Summary of Significant New Mineral Resource Data Collected Since the Preliminary Suitability Recommendation Which Should be Considered in the Final Decision: In 1983 and 1984 the USGS and the U.S. Bureau of Mines (BOM) conducted field examinations of this WSA. In 1987 the results of the investigations were published as a joint report, USGS Bulletin 1711-B. Although mineral resources were identified by BLM in the 1980 GRA Report and the 1986 EIS for the Wilderness Recommendations-Eastern San Diego County Planning Unit, the USGS and BOM report indicated that mineral resources or mineral resource potential had not been identified in the WSA.

USGS and BOM found no direct evidence of gold mineralization in the western portion of the WSA except a favorable geologic environment where quartz intruded pelitic schist. The 1963 California Division of Mines and Geology (CDMG) County Report 3 listed several prospects for gold in quartz and schist but no production was listed for the WSA.

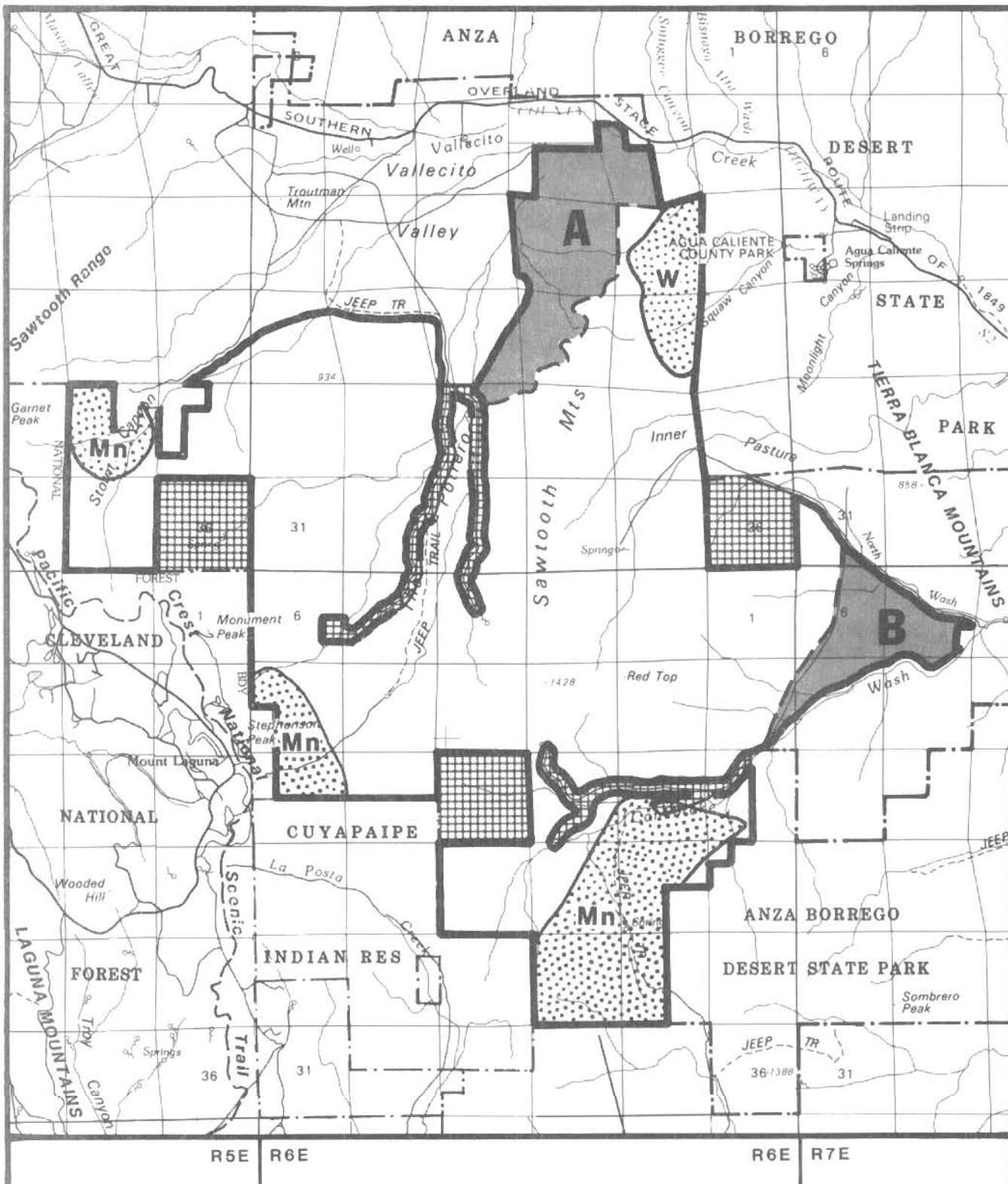
The USGS and BOM reported localized anomalies for silver, barium, copper, bismuth, and lead. These data would support a low potential for the occurrence of base metal mineralization in the WSA under the BLM mineral resource classification system, revising downward the

BLM GRA moderate potential classification. Sand and gravel occurrences were noted as abundant by the USGS and BOM but not classified. However, lack of interest or a ready market would warrant a low potential for occurrence classification by the BLM.

USGS Survey Bulletin 1711-B noted tungsten prospects in the northeastern portion of the WSA, but no production figures were cited. The USGS bulletin showed, through geochemical surveys, widespread tungsten and tin anomalies. These geochemical anomalies, coupled with known favorable environment, would support the BLM GRA moderate potential classification for the occurrence of tungsten in the northeastern portion of the WSA.

Manganese was noted in the southwest portion of the WSA in CDMG County Report 3, although no production was reported. The USGS and BOM made no mention of this resource in their report. Nevertheless, the data of the 1963 CDMG County Report 3 supports BLM's moderate potential for occurrence classification in the western and southern portions of the WSA, which is shown on Map 2.

As of December 31, 1987, there were no mining claims, mineral sales or leases within the Sawtooth Mountains B WSA.



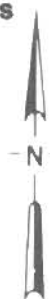
- Recommended for Wilderness
- Recommended for Non Wilderness
- Land outside WSA Recommended for Wilderness
- Split Estate
- State
- Private

#### Explanation

- High Potential for the Occurrence of Energy and/or Non-energy Minerals
- Moderate Potential for the Occurrence of Energy and/or Non-energy Minerals
- M** Moderate Mineral Potential Location in a High Mineral Potential Area
- H** High Mineral Potential Location in a Moderate Mineral Potential Area

#### Commodity Symbols

- Mn** Manganese
- W** Tungsten



### Sawtooth Mountains-B Mineral Resource Potential



MAP-2  
060-024B

E. Impacts on Resources

Table 4 - Comparative Summary of the Impacts by Alternative

<u>Issue Topic</u>	<u>Proposed Action (Partial Wilderness)</u>	<u>All Wilderness Alternative</u>	<u>No Wilderness/ No Action Alternative</u>	<u>Partial Wilderness Alternative</u>
Impact on Wilderness Values	Wilderness designation of 22,835 acres will have a minor, positive impact on the area's wilderness values as a result of eliminating 20 miles of roads and six one-acre apiary sites and reintroducing peninsular bighorn sheep into the area. Development of a four-mile access road in the northern nonsuitable portion of the WSA and the resultant increase in motorized recreation use (from 50 to 500 visitor use days annually) will have a minor negative impact on the area's naturalness and solitude values on 300 to 500 acres.	Impacts would be the same as for the Proposed Action except that values of naturalness and solitude would be retained on an additional 1,707 acres in the northern Potrero Canyon Area.	There would be moderate adverse impacts on the area's wilderness values over approximately 15 to 20 percent of the WSA due to the noise and surface disturbance from increased OHV use (from 50 visitor use days annually to 1,000 visitor use days) and mineral exploration and development activities on over 85 acres of land.	There would be moderate adverse impacts on the area's wilderness values over approximately five to seven percent of the WSA due to the noise and surface disturbance from increased OHV use (from 50 visitor use days annually to 1,000 visitor use days) and mineral development of over 10 acres of land.



Table 4 - Comparative Summary of the Impacts by Alternative (Cont'd)

Issue Topic	Proposed Action (Partial Wilderness)	All Wilderness Alternative	No Wilderness/ No Action Alternative	Partial Wilderness Alternative
Impact on the Reintroduction of Bighorn Sheep	Reintroduction efforts will be slightly enhanced by closing 90 percent of the WSA to recreational OHV use. Increased grazing use levels (from 738 AUMs to 1,100 AUMs) will have a minor negative impact on these efforts.	Impacts would be the same as for the Proposed Action.	There would be a minor adverse impact on reintroduction efforts due to increased OHV use and mineral development activities. Motorized vehicles would, however, be used in sheep transplants and herd maintenance, thereby enhancing these efforts.	Impacts would be the same as for the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative.
Impact on Sensitive Plant Species	No significant impact. Sensitive species will be slightly enhanced by closure of over 90 percent of the WSA to recreational OHV use, restricting mechanized fire suppression equipment, and acquisition of private lands bordering the WSA.	No significant impact. Closure of the entire WSA to vehicular access including mechanized fire suppression equipment would slightly enhance sensitive plant species habitat.	Sensitive plant species will be moderately impacted in the Potrero Canyon and north and southeastern portions of the WSA as a result of increased OHV use from 50 visitor use days annually to 1,000 visitor use days) and mining exploration and development activities on over 85 acres.	Impacts would be the same as for the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative.

Table 4 - Comparative Summary of the Impacts by Alternative (Cont'd)

Issue Topic	Proposed Action (Partial Wilderness)	All Wilderness Alternative	No Wilderness/ No Action Alternative	Partial Wilderness Alternative
Impact on Archeological Resources and Native American Values	No significant impact. Overall, resources and values will be retained. Adverse impacts associated with route and trail development and increased livestock grazing will be minor.	No significant impact. Overall, resources and values would be retained. Adverse impacts associated with trail development and increased livestock grazing will be very minor.	Overall, resources and values will be moderately adversely impacted as a result of increased motorized and nonmotorized recreational use and mineral exploration and development activities on over 85 acres in the north and southwestern portions of the WSA.	There will be a minor, negative impact on archeological resources and Native American values as a result of increased motorized and nonmotorized recreation use and mineral development of 10 acres in the northwestern portion of the WSA.
Impact on Archeological Investigations	Scientific excavations will be restricted. This will result in a moderate adverse impact on the study and interpretation of regional cultural resources.	Impacts would be the same as for the Proposed Action.	No impact.	Scientific excavations would be restricted. This will have a moderate adverse impact on the study and interpretation of regional cultural resources.

Table 4 - Comparative Summary of the Impacts by Alternative (Cont'd)

Issue Topic	Proposed Action (Partial Wilderness)	All Wilderness Alternative	No Wilderness/ No Action Alternative	Partial Wilderness Alternative
Impact on Motorized Hunting Access	Motorized hunting use of 50 visitor days annually will be foregone. However, impact will be minimal because of similar or superior opportunities on other public lands.	Impacts would be the same as for the Proposed Action.	Access will be greatly enhanced as a result of new route development, prescribed burns, and mineral exploration and development.	Access for motorized hunting will be moderately enhanced as a result of route development in the nonsuitable portion of the WSA and prescribed burns to be conducted in the western portion of the WSA.
Impact on Apiary Management	Commercial apiary use will be foregone; six one-acre apiaries will be eliminated. Impacts will be moderate because of the phased elimination of these sites and availability of other public lands for apiary management.	Impacts would be the same as for the Proposed Action.	No impact, current levels of apiary use would be retained.	Commercial apiary use will be foregone on three of the six one-acre sites. Impacts will be minor because of the phased elimination of these sites and availability of other public lands for apiary management.

#### F. Local Social and Economic Considerations

No local social or economic considerations were identified in the EIS for the Wilderness Recommendations, Eastern San Diego County Planning Unit. Therefore, no further discussion of this topic will occur in this document.

#### G. Summary of WSA-Specific Public Comments

Public comments were solicited throughout all phases in the development of the Eastern San Diego County MFP. The following is a summary of all comments received. Known inaccuracies are noted in parentheses. Sawtooth Mountains A, B, and C WSAs were treated as one wilderness study area up through the draft EIS stage. Consequently, the following public comment summary includes statements made about all three areas. Although some respondents directed their comments specifically toward A, B, or C, most did not specify a particular area.

1. Inventory Phase: Some comments agreed with the BLM's findings. Others mentioned roads and conflicting uses within the WSA, such as an apiary, which they believed disqualified the area for wilderness consideration.
2. Study Phase: A few comments received during the inventory phase concerned study phase considerations. They expressed the belief that this area is being considered for wilderness in order to protect bighorn sheep, but that the sheep are not affected by humans and do not need this protection.
3. Proposed Livestock Grazing and Wilderness Management for the Eastern San Diego County Planning Unit - Draft EIS: The proposed action recommended that 25,515 acres of the Sawtooth Mountain WSA be designated suitable for wilderness and 5,629 acres be designated non-suitable. The non-suitable areas included the northwestern portion of the Sawtooth Mountains A WSA; sections 19, 20 and 21, T. 14 S., R. 6 E.; and Potrero Canyon.

During the review of the Draft EIS, 23 letters were received from Federal, State, and local agencies; organizations; and individuals. Only seven of these responses addressed the Sawtooth WSA. Five favored a wilderness designation, one opposed wilderness, and an oil company stated that the region has potential for geothermal resources.

Wilderness proponents wanted the entire Sawtooth WSA declared suitable, saying that Sawtooth A WSA, which had been excluded, was worthy of wilderness designation. They proposed that for the immediate future, the area be maintained under wilderness management until acquisition of the Spencer Ranch becomes feasible. They also wanted to include sections 19, 20, and 21, T. 14 S., R. 6 E., within the suitable area, noting that the road would make a more manageable boundary than a fenced section line.

They requested that Potrero Canyon be closed except for maintenance of watering facilities for livestock and wildlife.

The respondent opposing wilderness for this area was an association of four-wheel drive clubs. Its major concern was the peninsular bighorn sheep. The respondent stated that wilderness in this area would be in direct conflict with sound management and manipulation of both the bighorn sheep and their habitat.

An oil company urged that geothermal resource potential be carefully evaluated throughout the WSA and that areas found to have potential be exempted from wilderness designation.

4. Management Framework Plan (MFP) for Eastern San Diego County Planning Unit - Wilderness Recommendations: The Management Framework Plan recommended a designation of 27,205 acres as suitable and 3,892 acres as unsuitable. The difference between this and the recommendation of the Draft EIS on wilderness management was that portions of sections 19 and 20, T.14S., R.6E., and most of Potrero Canyon were added to the suitable portion.

Approximately 54 out of a total of 60 comments gave an opinion of the Sawtooth WSA. Eleven were non-specific, in that they requested wilderness status for all of the WSAs within the planning unit. Included in this group was the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. Ten respondents supported the BLM's recommendation of partial wilderness for this WSA, and the remaining 33 wanted the entire WSA designated suitable. The Cleveland National Forest noted that a portion of this WSA is contiguous with potential National Forest wilderness, and that if Sawtooth is designated wilderness, the National Forest may consider the wilderness option for adjacent lands.

One organization and two individuals wanted no further wilderness in this region, as they wanted four-wheel drive access for recreation. A representative of a homeowners association requested that the Canebrake Canyon-Inner Pasture area be designated for low-intensity multiple use, since this area has a road, two landing strips, and two ranches, and also because access is needed for firefighting equipment. Another respondent wanted the Potrero road kept open.

5. 1982 Amendments to the Eastern San Diego County Management Framework Plan: Four amendments were proposed for the Sawtooth Mountains WSAs. One dealt specifically with the Sawtooth Mountains C WSA, and so is not included in this report. Comments on the other three amendment proposals are summarized below.

Amendment 44. Delete some "cherrystemming" in the Canebrake area and add a small section of "cherrystemming" in the same general region: The rationale was that the roads to be deleted are not needed, as they are not maintained and do not serve any developments. The roads to be added correct a change in the original inventory in which a cherrystem was incorrectly mapped.

Twenty-two comments were received in response to the Draft EIS on this amendment. Nineteen favored the amendment and three were opposed. No specific reasons were given for either position. For the Final EIS, there were three comments, all of which supported the BLM's position on the amendment.

Amendment 45. Change recommendation of a portion of the Sawtooth Mountains B WSA, from suitable to non-suitable, and designate Class L (limited use): The triangular area is bordered on the northeast by North Wash, on the southeast by Canebrake Wash, and on the west by a non-maintained road. The rationale was that this area is a bajada containing several man-made intrusions, including an old airstrip, a fence line, the Crawford Ranch, and some maintained roads. This area would be more properly managed as Class L (limited use) than as wilderness.

Twenty three comments were received in response to the Draft EIS. Fifteen respondents opposed the amendment and eight favored it. Most of those in opposition mentioned potential adverse impacts on bighorn sheep and cultural resources. One respondent requested deferral of the proposal for one year to allow completion of negotiations between the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and the El Centro Resource Area (BLM). Another respondent said he could accept the amendment as long as the area would remain Class L and not be changed to Class M or Class I. The State of California Resources Agency opposed the amendment, stating it would create a four mile wide area of Class L land between two State wilderness areas. State management of the wilderness areas would be hampered due to increased exposure of their boundaries to non-wilderness uses. There could be adverse impacts on cultural resources, as well as on wildlife and habitat. The increased use of the area could also hamper the future reintroduction of bighorn sheep into the Sawtooth WSA.

One individual found the justification given for this change by the BLM totally unacceptable, claiming that the airstrip cited as an intrusion has long been out of use and shows sign of natural rehabilitation. It was also stated that the new boundary road on the west is much more likely to have OHV violations than the former boundary in the Canebrake Wash. Opening this road will negatively affect the bighorn sheep now inhabiting the area and will hurt any reintroduction efforts. For these and many other reasons, this individual recommended rejecting the amendment.

No specific justifications were made by those supporting the amendment.

Four comments were received in response to the Final EIS. All were against amendments. No new reasons were given.



Amendment 46. Move the boundary of the excluded area in the Potrero south and southeast and change the designation of the excluded area from suitable to non-suitable, Class L. Add "cherrystemming" in same area: The rationale for the proposal was that several apiary sites and grazing developments exist that need periodic maintenance. Access to these sites is necessary. The existing roads to these sites are apparently maintained, but were not identified in the inventory process. Boundary changes would make the area more manageable and could allow a motorized access route to be constructed to serve users such as hunters.

Twenty-two comments were received in response to the Draft EIS on this amendment. Ten favored and twelve opposed the amendments. One proponent stated he could accept the amendment if changing the boundaries will allow better management of the remaining WSA. He agreed that access should be provided to private lands to avoid conflicts with private landholders. An apiary operator supported the amendment, stating that he would maintain bees in the area while meeting the BLM's requirements. Most other proponents simply agreed with the BLM's rationale.

The California State Resources Agency opposed the amendment saying it would have adverse impacts on the wilderness qualities of the deleted area and would increase access to wilderness areas leading to increased uses of the portion of the Sawtooth WSA. It would provide access to several apiary sites and grazing developments for servicing, but range improvement would be exposed to additional damage by motorized vehicles.

Four comments were received in response to the Final EIS. All respondents opposed the amendment for the same reasons given above.

APPENDIX 1  
ESTIMATED COSTS OF ACQUISITION OF NON-FEDERAL HOLDINGS WITHIN  
AREAS RECOMMENDED FOR DESIGNATION  
SAWTOOTH MOUNTAINS WSA (CA-060-024B)

PARCEL No.	LEGAL DESCRIPTION				TOTAL ACREAGE	NUMBER OF OWNERS	TYPE OF OWNERSHIP BY ESTATE		PRESENTLY PROPOSED FOR ACQUISITION	PREFERRED METHOD OF ACQUISITION	ESTIMATED COST OF ACQUISITION	
	TWNSHP	RNG	SEC	MERIDIAN			SURFACE ESTATE	SUBSURFACE ESTATE			LAND COSTS (\$1000)	PROCESSING COSTS (\$1000)
1	15S.	6E.	6	SBM	40	1	PRIVATE	PRIVATE	YES	PURCHASE	20.0	2.5
2	15S.	6E.	16	SBM	640	UNKNOWN	PRIVATE	PRIVATE	YES	PURCHASE	320.0	2.5
3	14S.	5E.	36	SBM	640	UNKNOWN	PRIVATE	PRIVATE	YES	PURCHASE	320.0	2.5
4	14S.	6E.	36	SBM	640	UNKNOWN	PRIVATE	PRIVATE	YES	PURCHASE	320.0	2.5

These figures were derived from Bureau Land Records and provide for more detail than GIS estimates and therefore may differ from acreage summaries in Table 1.